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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 283

now is the time to get them up there so we can study them and have that debate when it comes.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Burling.

SENATOR BURLING: Mr. Speaker, I call the question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Do I see five hands? I do. The question has been called. The matter then is, shall debate cease? All in favor please vote aye, and opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BROMM: Debate does cease. Senator Landis, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments to LB 283.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think we have more debate ahead of us on liquor issues. We've got the Jensen amendment which is coming up before us. We'll be talking about earmarking. We'll be talking about the right rates. We'll have plenty of chance to chat about this. At this point, the question is whether or not the bill should move from the green copy into the committee amendment form. The point that I think has been made...I think there are several points that are simultaneously true. Compared to social cost, the tax that I have put here, the tax in the green copy of the bill, the tax as anybody suggested is dwarfed by the social cost of alcohol. No one taxes at that basis because it is immense, no doubt about it. It has not kept rate with inflation. That's true. The federal tax, by the way, in most of these areas is about double this amount, so in addition to us, there is a federal tax here as well. From my perspective, it's legitimate that we are taxing at the very high end of the scale of states around us with the committee amendment. That's a legitimate benchmark from my perspective and, therefore, a legitimate result in choosing the numbers that we've chosen for this amendment. I'd ask for its adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. You've heard the